

REMARKS

Claims 22 and 24-28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 29, and 30 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. New Claim 31 has been added. Claims 1-21, 23, and 29-31 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection of that Claim. Claims 2-21 and 23 depend from Claim 1 and the Examiner's rejection of those claims is believed to have been overcome accordingly.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-21, 23, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the article "Business-to-Business online auctions: key issues for purchasing process improvement" (hereinafter referred to as "B-to-B"). The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1-21, 23, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over B-to-B in view of the article "Stamp Center." Those rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, Claim 1 recites "determining with a computer whether fewer than a predetermined number of desirable carriers are available to operate in a lot area comprising the origination area and the destination area" and "storing the lot if it is determined that at least the predetermined number of desirable carriers are available to operate in the lot area." Support for the amendment may be found, without limitation, on page 17 of the Specification. Neither B-to-B, nor Stamp Center disclose these limitations, whether considered singly or in combination. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 2-21, 23, and 31 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

As with Claim 1, independent Claims 29 and 30 also recite determining "whether fewer than a predetermined number of desirable carriers are available to operate in a lot area comprising the origination area and the destination area" and storing "the lot if it is determined that at least the predetermined number of desirable carriers are available to operate in the lot area" and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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